

Chiang was a close friend of the United States throughout her life and especially during the defining struggles of the last century. Generations of Americans will always remember and respect her intelligence and strength of character. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to Madame Chiang's family members and many admirers around the world.

### **Message on the Observance of Ramadan**

*October 24, 2003*

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world observing the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the holiest season in the Islamic faith, commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammed. This month of introspection provides Muslims a time to focus on their faith and practice God's commands. Through fasting, prayer, contemplation, and charity, Muslims around the world renew their commitment to lead lives of honesty, integrity, and compassion.

Throughout our history, people of different faiths have shaped the character of our Nation. Islam is a peaceful religion, and people who practice the Islamic faith have made great contributions to our Nation and the world. As Americans, we cherish our freedom to worship and we remain committed to welcoming individuals of all religions. By working together to advance freedom and mutual understanding, we are creating a brighter future of hope and opportunity.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.  
*Ramadan mubarak.*

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

#### **October 18**

In the morning, at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Tokyo, Japan, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Manila, Philippines, where they greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and members of the American community at the Embassy.

In the afternoon, at the Rizal Monument, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath-laying ceremony with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. Later, at Malacanang Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. The two Presidents then had a meeting.

In the evening, in the Ceremonial Hall at Malacanang Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a state dinner hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

#### **October 19**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bangkok, Thailand. Later, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, he met with Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a review of Thai troops recently returned from Afghanistan. Later, he and Mrs. Bush toured the Grand Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, the President met with President Hu Jintao of China.

In the evening, at the Grand Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a state dinner hosted by King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

#### **October 20**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, he had a breakfast meeting with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea. He then met with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

In the afternoon, at Government House, the President participated in the first session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation